



Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice

P.O. Box 2022, Hartford, Connecticut 06145-2022 Phone (860) 548-1133 Fax (860) 548-9197
ccej@environmental-justice.org www.environmental-justice.org

Hello, my name is Jose Arce and I am speaking in behalf of Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice in favor of SB 59 an act prohibiting the sale or use of fishing sinkers, jigs and tire weights that contain lead. I would like to speak to the issue of eliminating lead in tire weights.

65 thousand tons of lead are in use on our roadways on 200 million cars on trucks in tire weights. The lead falls from the tires weights and disintegrates into dust. Small lead particles are breathed in by our children. The dust washes into our streams and reservoirs.

We know that the human health problems associated with exposure to lead, especially for children, are very serious. They include lowered intelligence, behavior problems, cancer, strokes, high blood pressure, kidney problems anemia, cavities, and delayed puberty.

Furthermore, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has requested that lead tire weights be phased out in favor of a number of other alternatives. Steel and zinc tire weight alternatives do exist. California has already passed a law banning lead contents in tire weights down to .1 percent.

SB 59 will help us follow through on the EPA's suggestion in regard to lead weights in tires and push the auto makers to implement substitutes for tire weights, thus helping to create a lead free environment in our urban areas and through out the state.

I would like to add that the problem of human exposure to lead being used in tire weights is an example of why we need comprehensive chemical reform. We are being exposed to thousands of chemicals, mostly untested, without a clear understanding as to how these chemicals are affecting our health. In the case of lead, there is solid evidence of harm, yet there is a failure to adequately protect public health. It is perfectly legal to put toxic chemicals, like lead, into consumer products. There is no comprehensive chemical policy that puts health concerns first, so Connecticut must continue to lead the way in protecting our children.